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Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Eighth Meeting

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 28 November 2001, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Ms. IZE-CHARRIN (Representative of the Secretary-General)

Chairman: Mr. NAZARIAN (Armenia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, declared open the Eighth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Since the Seventh Meeting on 24 November 1999, the number of ratifications of or accessions to the Convention had increased from 118 to 126, and she welcomed the representatives of the new States parties attending the Meeting for the first time.

2. Briefly reviewing the work of the Committee, she said that during the four sessions held since the last meeting of States parties in 1999, the Committee had considered reports submitted by 28 States. It had also registered 190 individual complaints under article 22 since 1988. The results of three confidential inquiries conducted under article 20 had been made public. The Committee had also pursued its efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on questions relating to torture and with the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

3. Amendments adopted in 1992 by a Conference of the States parties to finance the Committee's activities under the regular budget had been endorsed by the General Assembly, but they had not yet entered into force for want of approval by two thirds of the States parties. To date, only 23 States parties had notified the Secretary-General that they had accepted the amendments. Accordingly, she asked all States parties that had not already done so to take appropriate action so that the financing of the Committee under the regular budget could become a reality, in keeping with the wishes of the General Assembly.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

4. Mr. KARKLINS (Latvia) nominated Mr. Nazarian (Armenia) for the office of Chairman.

5. Mr. FERGUSON (Canada) seconded the nomination.

6. Mr. Nazarian (Armenia) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

7. Mr. Nazarian (Armenia) took the Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (item 3 of the provisional agenda) (CAT/SP/25)

8. The agenda was adopted.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the States parties adopted by the States parties at their First Meeting on 26 November 1987 (CAT/SP/2/Rev.1), the Secretary-General, in his note of 23 October 2001, had invited the States parties to send representatives to the Eighth Meeting and to forward the credentials of the representatives to him as soon as possible and in any case no later than

one week before the date of the Meeting. The Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from some of the States parties represented at the Meeting. He therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting, and he urged them to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

10. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE MEETING (agenda item 4)

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, under rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting was required to elect one to four vice-chairmen from among the representatives of the States parties. At the Seventh Meeting, the States parties had decided to elect one vice-chairman only. He suggested that, if there was no objection, they should again elect only one vice-chairman.

12. It was so decided.

13. Mr. REYES RODRIGUEZ (Colombia) nominated Mr. Béliz (Panama) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

14. Mr. Béliz (Panama) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE TO REPLACE THOSE WHOSE TERMS OF OFFICE WILL EXPIRE ON 31 DECEMBER 2001, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 17, PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 5, OF THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (agenda item 5) (CAT/SP/24 and Add.1)

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, under article 17 of the Convention, the five members of the Committee would be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties. They would serve for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 2002.

16. The names of the candidates nominated by the States parties were contained in document CAT/SP/24. Algeria had withdrawn its candidate. Annex I to document CAT/SP/24 contained the names of the five members of the Committee whose terms were due to expire on 31 December 2001, and annex II contained the names of the five members who would continue to serve on the Committee until 31 December 2003. Biographical data of the candidates, as furnished by the States parties concerned, appeared in annex III.

17. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Bentall (United Kingdom) and Mr. Peña Ghisleni (Brazil) acted as tellers.

18. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced the results of the ballot, which were:

Number of ballot papers:	91
Invalid ballots:	0
Valid ballots:	91
Abstentions:	0
Representatives voting:	91
Required majority:	46
Votes obtained:	
Mr. El Masry (Egypt):	80
Mr. Mariño Menendez (Spain):	87
Mr. Rasmussen (Denmark):	79
Mr. Yakovlev (Russian Federation):	84
Mr. YU Mengjia (China):	83

20. Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. El Masry (Egypt), Mr. Mariño Menendez (Spain), Mr. Rasmussen (Denmark), Mr. Yakovlev (Russian Federation) and Mr. Yu Mengjia (China) were elected members of the Committee for a four-year term beginning 1 January 2002.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.